

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

The application has been amended as follows:

- Claims 13-16 have been cancelled.
- In Specification p. 6, the last three lines have been changed to:

--Figures 5a and 5b are exploded cross section views of components used to construct a flex cable according to the present invention;

Figures 6a and 6b are flow charts illustrating a method of making the present invention. --

Reasons for Allowance

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

- With regard to independent claims 10, 11, 12, 17, and 18, as the closest reference of record, Shin (US 2003/0086214) shows a damped flexible cable (FPC) for use in a magnetic memory device including: an electrically conductive lead; a vibration damping material disposed adjacent to the electrical lead; and an insulating material surrounding the vibration damping material and at least a portion of the electrical lead, wherein the vibration damping material is configured to be relatively wider/thicker in areas wherein more damping is required and relatively narrower/thinner elsewhere; **but fails to show** that the damping material covers an area at least 1/3 of the area of the flexible cable.

- Applicant asserts; this invention provides means for effectively damping vibration in a flexible cable of a disk drive device, while minimizing the use of addition components (Specification, p. 3).

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tianjie Chen whose telephone number is 571-272-7570. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00-4:30, Mon-Fri.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Hoa Nguyen can be reached on 571-272-7579. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2627

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Tianjie Chen/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2627